

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTIES OF ARANSAS §
SAN PATRICIO AND NUECES §
CITY OF ARANSAS PASS §

On this the 20th day of August, 2007 the City Council of the City of Aransas Pass convened in a Regular Council Meeting being open to the Public at the regular meeting place thereof in the City Hall and notice of said meeting giving the time, place, date and subject hereof having been posted and prescribed by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code with the following attendance to wit constituting a quorum.

PRESENT: Tommy Knight, Mayor
Jay Attaway, Mayor Pro Tempore
Frank Hametner, Council Member
Vickie Abrego, Council Member
Karen Mayer, Council Member

ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATIVE
PERSONNEL PRESENT: Tom Ginter, City Manager
Allen Lawrence, City Attorney
Ada Owens, City Secretary

Substituting
ADMINISTRATIVE
PERSONNEL ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Darrell Jones, Police Chief
Gilbert Ritz, Fire Chief
Don Brummett, Acting Public Works Director
Frank Truitt, City Inspector
Sandy Roddel, Finance Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Ann Melton, Lu & Ralph Arcemont, Alpha & Jim Covington, Eva Young, Ernie Torres, Colleen Abshire, James Hale, Hope Comingore, Margaret Garrett, Oscar Pina-Aransas County Commissioner, Belinda Ritz, Rickie Kilgore

(There may have been others present who did not sign in.)

ITEM 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Knight called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on August 20, 2007.

ITEM 2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG.

Council Member Abrego gave the invocation. Mayor Knight led the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

ITEM 3. CONSENT AGENDA – “All of the following items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember so requests. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately”.

- A. Approval of Minutes of August 6, 2007.
- B. Consider and Act on Request of Aransas County Environment Health Department to hold a Free Trash Day at the Aransas Pass Citizen’s Station September 8, 2007 and Authorize assistance from Public Work employees.

County Commissioner Pena introduced Mr. James Jackson, Director of Environmental Health Department and thanked the City for their assistance with Trash Day.

Council Member Hametner made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Abrego seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4. UPDATE FROM TRAY BATES / W. L. BATES COMPANY ON PROPERTY MANAGEMENT.

Mr. Tray Bates with W. L. Bates Company stated the City’s agreement with the W. L. Bates Company was being finalized. He stated the report he had given to the Council included the list of 14 expiring harbor leases. He stated he would work with the tenants regarding the leases. He stated he had inquiries regarding the harbor from inside and outside the city.

Council Member Hametner asked Mr. Bates what sort of interest was coming in for the harbor?

Mr. Bates stated there had been three or four people from out of town tour the harbor and he had requested that they bring him an offer or proposal idea that he could assemble and take to the Council for discussion.

Council Member Hametner asked Mr. Bates how he was marketing the harbor.

Mr. Bates stated the marketing had not started yet. He stated the marketing plan would be brought to the Council before it goes to the public.

ITEM 5. PRESENTATION BY TERRY ORF / TKO ARCHITECTS OF PLANS FOR CIVIC CENTER AND CITY HALL ADDITION AND RENOVATION.

Mr. Terry Orf with TKO Architects stated he had met with the Aransas Pass Municipal Development District for minor changes in the plan for the new Civic Center. He stated the advertisement for Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) would be out soon and the responding parties would be pre-qualified for the bidding process.

Mr. Orf stated he had discussed the plans for the City Hall addition and renovation with the staff to assess each departments needs and the changes were reflected in the overall plans for City Hall.

Mr. Orf presented the changes in office spaces, building security, future IT needs in the Council Chambers and the conference room. He explained the exterior of the addition would blend with the present building with concrete masonry. He stated the plans should be 90% complete in three weeks. He stated the Council Chambers would be enlarged by removing the present kitchen and restrooms to use that space for the Council Chambers and should seat almost twice as many people as it does now. He stated after the RFQ's are received and the contractors pre-qualify for the project, it should take approximately three weeks for the bids to come in, which would be the end of September.

ITEM 6. CONSIDER AND ACT ON AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ARANSAS PASS AND THE ARANSAS PASS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

City Attorney Allen Lawrence advised the Council to pass on the item and the Council concurred.

ITEM 7. CONSIDER AND ACT ON AWARDING BID FOR REMOVAL OF BOATS FROM CONN BROWN HARBOR.

City Manager Tom Ginter stated there were three more boats to be taken out of the harbor and he had received bids from Louisiana Crane and Bay Ltd. He stated both estimates were approximately \$10,000.00 per day. He stated depending on the progress of the operation, it would take approximately three days.

Mr. Ginter recommended the Council accept the bid from Louisiana Crane. He stated staff and others working with Louisiana Crane also recommended them because that company had removed the boats from the harbor from the beginning of the project. and had done a good job.

Discussion was held on each company's equipment.

Council Member Hametner made the motion to award the bid for removal of boats from Conn Brown Harbor to Louisiana Crane. Council Member Abrego seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 8. CONSIDER AND ACT ON PURCHASING "CODERED" EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FROM EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, INC.

Police Chief Darrell Jones stated the City was supposed to be supplied with a reverse 911 system by San Patricio County, but because of the limitations and conditions imposed by the County, the CodeRed system was chosen for the City's reverse 911 system. Chief Jones stated the annual cost of \$7,500.00 would be paid from the 911 fund. The system was entirely software based and no other equipment was needed.

Council Member Abrego made the motion to approve purchase of "CodeRed" Emergency Notification System. Council Member Hametner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 9. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED FY2008 CITY BUDGET.

Mr. Ginter presented the proposed budget stating the Council had agreed to a proposed tax rate of \$0.58 which was an approximate reduction of \$0.02. He stated the reduction in expenditures included not hiring another police dispatcher. The Police Department have added two Police Officers and one Detective to their budget, the Fire Department has added one firefighter in their budget and there are some reductions in employee's fringe benefits. He stated at \$0.58 the budget was balanced at this point.

Mayor Knight stated approximately 30% of property owners in the City had an increase in their tax appraisals. He stated the 70% of property owners that got no property appraisal increase would have lower taxes and the 30% that had an increase in their property appraisals would have an increase in taxes.

Mayor Knight stated the proposed tax rate could be lowered to \$0.54 or \$0.55 by eliminating the additional police officers, but did the citizens want to do that? He stated there was a crime problem in the city and the answer was more police officers.

Council Member Hametner stated the City needed a strong police department and the City had a good judge that needed to be backed by the City. He stated they would not know where the proposed tax rate would be until the Appraisal District figured out all the tax protests.

ITEM 10. CONSIDER AND ACT ON PROPOSING A TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF ARANSAS PASS.

Mayor Pro Tempore Attaway made the motion to propose a tax rate of \$0.58. Council Member Mayer seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 11. CONSIDER AND ACT ON SETTING DATE AND TIME FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED TAX RATE.

Council Member Hametner made the motion to set the Public Hearings on the proposed tax rate on August 29, 2007 at 7:00 p.m and September 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Council Member Abrego seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 12. CONSIDER AND ACT ON TERMINATING THE CONN BROWN HARBOR LEASE OF VINCENT MAI DBA V&M TRADING DUE TO NONPAYMENT OF LEASE.

After discussion, Council Member Hametner made the motion to terminate the Conn Brown Harbor lease of Vincent Mai dba V&M Trading due to nonpayment of lease. Mayor Pro Tempore Attaway seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 13. CONSIDER AND ACT ON AUTHORIZING TAX RESALES: RESOLUTIONS 2007-590-A THROUGH 2007-590-I

- A. Roger Baresh, Lots 30 thru 32, Block 596
- B. Roger Baresh, Lot 23 thru 31, Block 597
- C. Georgette Griffith, Lot 1, Block 598
- D. Aaron Belcher & Georgette Griffith, Lot 7, Block 598
- E. Roger Baresh, Lot 24 thru 26, Block 616
- F. Roger Baresh, Lot 24 and 27, Block 617
- G. Platium Partners Ltd, Lot 10 and 11, Block 618
- H. Paul D. Hinson for Platium Partners Ltd, Lot 26 & 28, Block 618
- I. Aaron & Addie Belcher, Lot 28 and 29, Block 619

Mayor Knight stated the City Attorney had advised that the listed property could not be sold because all the property was "in or around Conn Brown Harbor" which by Ordinance could not be sold without a vote of the people.

Council Member Hametner made the motion to deny authorizing the tax resale of properties listed under Item 13. Council Member Mayer seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 14. CONSIDER AND ACT ON RESCHEDULING THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2007 (LABOR DAY) REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Council Member Mayer made the motion to reschedule the September 3, 2007 regular City Council meeting to September 4, 2007. Council Member Abrego seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 15. CONSIDER AND ACT ON APPROVING GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1 FOR FYE 2007.

Council Member Hametner made the motion to approve General Fund budget amendment No. 1 for FYE 2007. Council Member Abrego seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 16. REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER AND STAFF AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At this time the Mayor, City Council, Staff and Public comments may be given. Reports or updates on any assignments which include but are not limited to grants, building and development, budgets, financial reports and any other projects may be given. No formal action can be taken on any of these items at this time. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes each.

The City Manager gave a summary of the FY2007 Water and Sewer Fund budget and the General Fund budget for the end of July 2007.

Mayor Pro Tempore Attaway asked the City Manager did the City have any new data on the water rates?

Finance Director Sandy Roddel stated the meter reading department had been restructured by Mr. Ginter and it expected that the meter over-reading problems would be solved by the restructure.

Mayor Knight stated himself, City Manager Tom Ginter, Police Chief Darrell Jones, Asst. Police Chief & Harbormaster Bill Haines, Fire Chief Gilbert Ritz, Acting Public Works Director Don Brummett, Water Superintendent Cande Torres, City Inspector Frank Truitt, EMS Director Steve Knight, Progress publisher Clay Morgan, APISD Superintendent Dr. Carl Montoya, and APISD Maintenance and Transportation Director Alan Springs attended telephone conference calls the Governor's Office of Emergency Management regarding Hurricane Dean on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday at 10 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. He stated the conference calls involved all coastal cities and inland cities who would receive evacuees. All City fuel tanks were full, all water storage tanks were full, crews were standing by to close the sea gates at Pelican Cove and the Seawall, busses and fire trucks were standing by to evacuate people from low lying areas, ambulances were also standing by.

Mayor Knight commended the City employees on the emergency preparations. He stated the City had come close to ordering an evacuation because it was thought the hurricane would hit the City. He stated Dr. Montoya had busses standing by with full fuel tanks and the City really appreciated the School's help.

Ms. Ann Melton discussed the tax appraisals and the Over-65/Disabled tax freeze.

Council Member Hametner explained the appraisal procedures.

The Finance Director stated she had contacted the Chief Appraiser and he understood the Over-65/Disabled Tax Freeze takes effect on this year's City property taxes.

Discussion was held between the audience and Council regarding evacuation procedures.

Ms. Debra Keller asked was the City considering a 10% increase in the effective tax rate? She stated that by State law a rollback goes into effect at 8% (increase). She stated two years ago the City went (increased the rate) 15%, last year the City went 8% (increase), now the Council was considering 10% (increase). She stated this year she would get together a petition if the City goes above the rollback (rate).

Ms. Keller suggested getting a COPS grant to pay for new police officers and using a fund to pay for school crossing guards instead of putting it in the budget. She stated if the City ended up with a net income in the fund balance, capital equipment should be taken from next year's budget and bought from that fund balance.

Fire Chief Gilbert Ritz stated over 50 free smoke detectors had been installed in homes during the Smoke Detector campaign.

Mayor Pro Tempore Attaway asked the City Manager for information on the status of the new animal control facility and storage tanks at the old Public Works site.

ITEM 17. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING.

Council Member Mayer made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tempore Attaway seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knight adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST: Tommy Knight, Mayor

Ada Owens, City Secretary